



FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

As the days slip by, I am thinking about my early days in ham radio. I was first licensed in 1957 with the call, KN6UUW, novice class.

My novice days were spent mainly on 40 m. CW. My receiver was a Hallicrafters, SX 28. The transmitter was a three tube rig, a 6AG7 crystal oscillator that drove a 6L6 final running 15 Watts. The antenna was a Windom, all out of 300 Ohm twin lead, (TV feed line).

The thrill was working out of state at night. Hawaii and Alaska were big catches.

The rule was you had one year to upgrade to General or else your novice license expired. In those days, a general class ham could administer the novice written, but you had to present yourself to a FCC official in San Francisco to take the general. That test consisted of a written, sending 13WPM and copying 13 WPM. I passed on the first try.

Joining the military put a halt to getting on the air a lot; being a young bachelor didn't help either. However, I spent a lot of time on alert on Guam, so with nothing much to do, I ran a lot of phone patches for the guys; They really appreciated it. When the bands went sour to the states, we ran DX into Europe. Lots of fun being on the wanted side of a pile up.

Marriage and family now put a dent on operating time. It wasn't until I retired that I could devote some serious time to operating.

The hobby has come a long way since the days of the SX 28. Now we have receivers pulling signals out of the noise, linears just a little bigger than a lunch box running full legal limit and antennas that stay in resonance as you roam the band.

Mark your calendars for the 14th of Sept. You and your other are all invited to my place for a picnic. Starting time 5:00 pm.

Stay resonant,

73, Jim K6UUW

NEXT MEETING

Wed, August 21, 2019, 7:30pm

City of Sonoma EOC

Topic: What is a Country?

Presenter: San N7PIB

Minutes of the July 17 Meeting

KD6FIL (Dave), KA2QQO (Declan), KF6FZM (Dick), WB6TMH (Mike), KA5WSS (Robert), KI6FFM (Dean), KG6QNT (Eileen), KM6FEY (Carol), N7PIB (San), NJ6E (Stan), K6YD (Kevin), N6LY (Elizabeth), W8EWL (John) K6UUW (Jim)

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:31pm.

PRESIDENT

Carl is listed in the Newsletter as net control for August.

Plan to go to weekly net control soon.

Badges needed for: W8EWL, John, KA2QQO, Declan, K6YD, Kevin

VICE PRESIDENT

Book Donation to the Library – Thank you Stan for helping with this.

The process is to submit a list of books that the club would like to donate to the library for approval. Once approved, the club can purchase the books. List of books the club would like to submit are:

- ARRL Antenna Book
- ARRL Operating Manual
- ARRL License Manual
- ARRL Handbook

Cost is estimated in the neighborhood of \$150.

TREASURER

The balance is \$4,294.12.

SECRETARY

Insurance is done and renewed. Will email policy to president and VP.

Will contact City Clerk about the status of the free day request.

Radio Officer

Nothing to report

ACS

ACS Leadership meeting is scheduled for July 22 at the Santa Rosa EOC on Stony Point Rd.

Level 1 training is scheduled from November 2 from 8 to Noon.

VE Session

Next VE Session is scheduled for September 28 at the Sonoma PD Training Room.

OLD BUSINESS

4th of July Parade went well. Thanks to Kevin, Elizabeth, Wendy, Eileen and Dave

N6P is not happening this year, as the Lighthouse Garage is being renovated. International Lighthouses on the Air is August 17 and 18.

Vintage Festival is coming up. VOMARC needs to see if they are looking for communications help for any of the events.

Net control change from monthly to weekly needs to be finalized.

Field Day went well. Batteries are done. Need to look for new batteries. Maybe ones that are easier to move – handles or smaller. Check with Moe if SSU has any plans to replace batteries from their UPS system.

NEW BUSINESS

California Historical Radio Society has an event on July 20 on Alameda Island.

Summer Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, September 14 at 5 PM at K6UUW's house.

Christmas Party- still looking for a venue. Will send out an email looking for suggestions.

Mystery Box: the lucky recipient was Elizabeth – N6LY

Meeting adjourned at 20:11

PROGRAM

Dean, KI6FFM on Radio Astronomy.

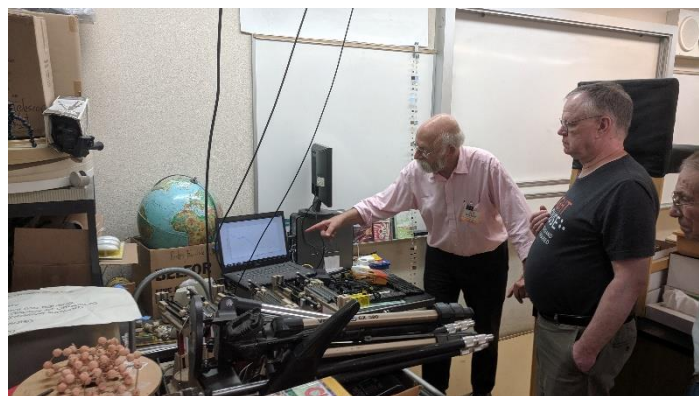
—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

July VOMARC Meeting

Photos submitted by Robert KA5WSS



Dean Knight (KI6FFM) presents a talk at the July 2019 VOMARC meeting on some of the technical activities taking place at Sonoma High School, including Radio Astronomy.



Dean showing off one of the many experiments and sets of equipment in the lab. VOMARC took a break from our normal meeting location for the special treat.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Misc:

The **VOMARC Christmas Party** had been held for years at Mary's Pizza Shack, but some issues arose during the last event that has made the club consider an alternate venue. Club officers are asking for your ideas and input on where you would like the event to be held this year. Dave asked for opinions on the matter and we're still open to more input. Please let us know!

The ARRL reported 3,100 entries for **Field Day 2019**.

FT4 is now an accepted mode for contacts submitted to the **Logbook of the World**.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Petition for Rulemaking Asks FCC to Create a New 8-Meter Amateur Band

06/27/2019

The FCC has put on public notice for comment a *Petition for Rulemaking* ([RM-11843](#)) that seeks the creation of a new 8-meter Amateur Radio allocation on a secondary basis. The Petition suggests the new band could be centered on an industrial-scientific-medical (ISM) segment somewhere between 40.51 and 40.70 MHz. The spectrum between 40 and 41 MHz is currently allocated to the Federal Government and, as such, within the purview of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). ARRL member Michelle Bradley, KU3N, of Maryland, filed the petition in May on behalf of REC Networks, which she founded and described in the *Petition* as “a leading advocate for a citizen’s access to spectrum,” including Amateur Radio spectrum.

“REC feels that the time is right for the Commission to open a *Notice of Inquiry* and eventually a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, and in cooperation with the NTIA, this new band opportunity can be realized to spark the next generation of ‘makers’ in the fields of science, technology, education, and math (STEM), especially women and girls,” Bradley told the FCC in the *Petition*. “The more opportunities we give to make things, the more opportunities we have to build a pool of experts in STEM, right here at home.”

The *Petition* said the objective of a new band would be “an effort to foster experimentation into the propagation characteristics of this band midway between the 10- and 6-meter bands.” An allocation in the 8-meter band is available to radio amateurs in Ireland, where the Irish Radio Transmitters Society has developed a band plan for 40 – 41 MHz.

“REC perceives this spectrum can be used for weak signal experimentation and eventually general amateur use, especially along transatlantic paths using CW, SSB, digital modes such as FT8 and digital voice,” the *Petition* said. “As no radios are mass-produced for this band at this time, this opens up new opportunities for ‘makers’ to construct transmitters, receivers, and antenna systems that can be used in this spectrum.”

REC anticipates “very low” usage of the new band, “with peak usage around sporadic-E episodes, operating events such as ARRL Field Day, and VHF contests, as well as during the peak of sunspot cycles,” Bradley told the Commission. “[W]e feel that the sharing of 40 MHz can be accomplished in a manner that serves the needs of the Amateur Radio Service while meeting the organizational missions of Federal Government agencies that utilize this spectrum.”

Interested parties may file short comments on RM-11843 via the FCC’s **Electronic Comment Filing Service (Express)**.

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

First Two Meter Transatlantic QSO Reported

The first Amateur Radio contact to span the Atlantic Ocean on the 2-Meter band was recently made. The historic contact took place between D41CV on Cape Verde Islands in

Africa and FG8OJ in Guadeloupe in North America.

The 2,400 mile distance was covered using the FT8 digital mode and was likely made possible via marine ducting along the ocean's surface.

D41CV later worked FG4ST, also on Guadeloupe, and that station was running a mere 50W into a vertical antenna!

<http://www.arrrl.org/news/historic-2-meter-transatlantic-contact-reported>



—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Morse Code Catches Google Red Handed

A company called Genius has accused Google of stealing their posted song lyrics and used Morse Code to catch them in the act. According to a Wall Street Journal article the company slightly modified the lyrics of some songs to use varying versions of apostrophes (straight and curly). When converted into dots and dashes the characters spelled out "Red Handed". Hi hi.

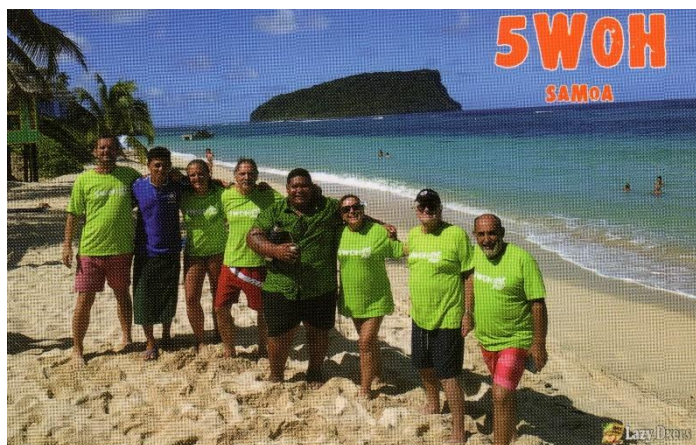
<https://mashable.com/article/google-genius-steal-lyrics/>

... ..
R E D
... ..
H A N D E D



—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

From The QSL Inbox



THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 23 EDITION 8

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill K6UUW – President

Robert Barron KA5WSS – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Sanford Smith, N7PIB – VE Liaison

Jim Hill K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

“Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.”—S. Marler

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month at the City of Sonoma Police Department EOC 175 1st St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Black Bear Restaurant, 201 W Napa St, #34 (Marketplace Shopping Center), Sonoma. The fun starts at 08:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

—OR—

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

**2019 ACS
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2019 VOMARC
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	MOE	KI6JNU
AUGUST	CARL	N6TVN
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE JULY 17, 2019, 7:30PM

AT THE CITY OF SONOMA EOC IN THE SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT, 175 1ST St West, Sonoma 95476

SEE YOU THERE.

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2019

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.